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MY OWN ROMANCE

72 NOV.

My own ROMANCE

10¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GAIL! WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

HOW CAN I TELL HIM? HOW CAN I BREAK IT TO FRANK? I'M CAUGHT IN A TRAP OF MY OWN MAKING!

I KNOW GAIL WANTS TO TALK TO ME... BUT IT'S TOO LATE! TOO LATE!

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DON'T DARE MISS:

"My TEEN-AGE SWEETHEART!"

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God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the Lovelight in your eyes;
He gave you breath And with his love,
made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU MINE
CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down To Sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should Die before I Wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take
The Way Of The CROSS HOME
Love one another AS I HAVE LOVED YOU
God Bless OUR HOME

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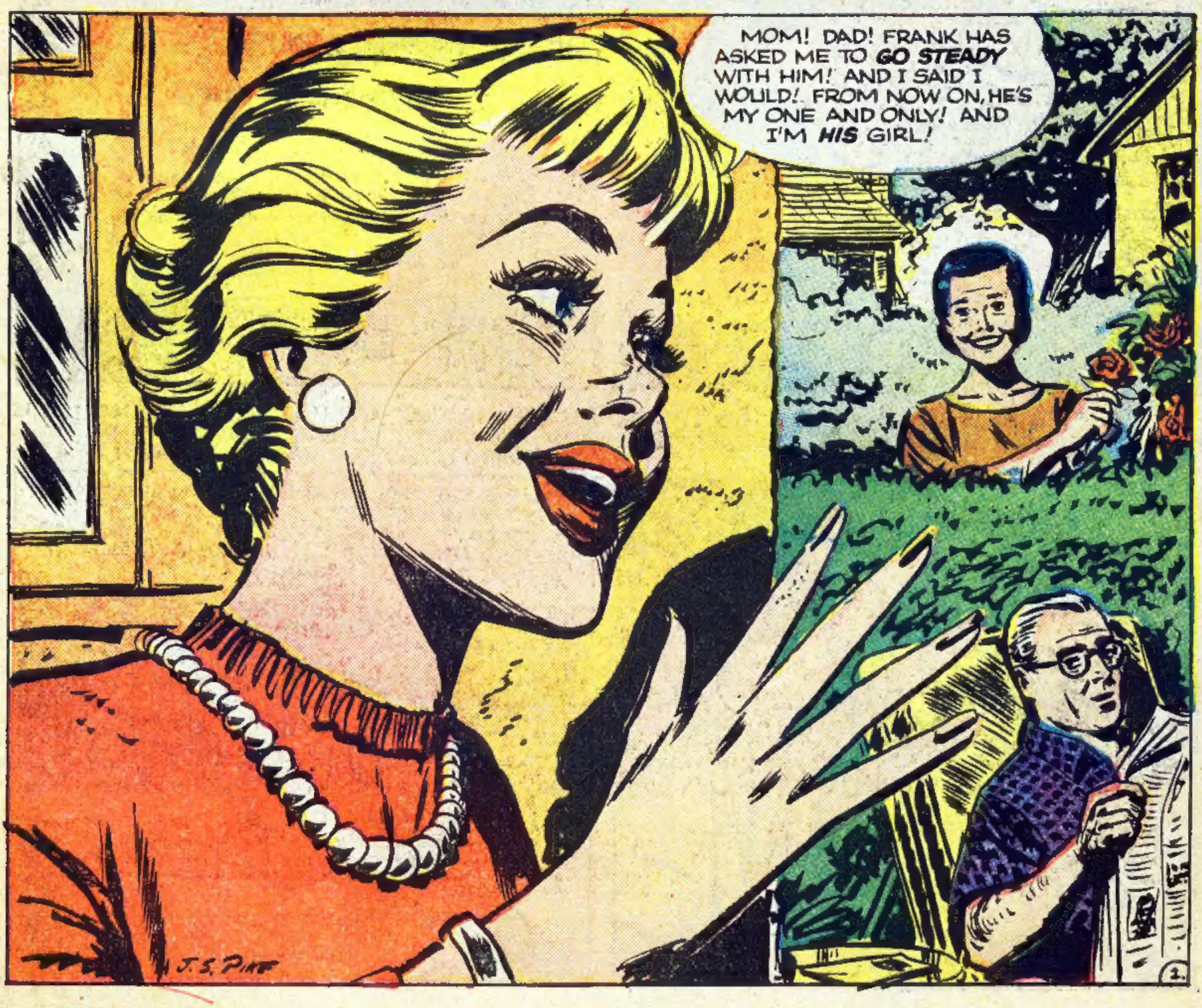
"MY TEEN AGE SWEETHEART!"

FOR WEEKS I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK, THINK, OR DREAM ABOUT ANYONE BUT FRANK HARRIS, AND SO WHEN THE DAY FINALLY CAME...WHEN HE FINALLY ASKED THAT QUESTION, IT WAS WITH ALL MY HEART THAT I ANSWERED...

I MADE HIM DRIVE ME RIGHT HOME. I WAS BURSTING WITH HAPPINESS AND I WANTED TO TELL MY PARENTS!



BUT GAIL, DEAR...ISN'T THIS A BIT HASTY? I MEAN, WOULDN'T IT BE WISER *NOT* TO TIE YOURSELF DOWN TO DATING JUST *ONE* BOY?!

YES, DEAR! YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG AND YOU HAVEN'T MET VERY MANY BOYS! WHY NOT GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH OTHER YOUNG MEN, BEFORE RESTRICTING YOURSELF IN THIS WAY?!

OH, DAD...MOM...I DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHER FELLAS! I JUST KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT FRANK! I KNOW HOW *WONDERFUL* IT IS FOR ME TO BE WITH HIM, AND HOW MUCH I *MISS* HIM WHEN WE'RE APART!

AND SO, IN SPITE OF MY PARENTS' ADVICE, FRANK AND I "WENT STEADY"! WE WENT TO DANCES TOGETHER...

HOW COME YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, HONEY?

I *HAD* TO BE... TO SNAG A GOOD-LOOKING GUY LIKE YOU!

WE WENT ON GROUP OUTINGS TOGETHER...

UMMM, DEVILED EGGS, FRIED CHICKEN, THE WORKS! YOU SURE DID THIS UP RIGHT, GAIL!

T'WAS A LABOR OF LOVE, MY LOVE!

AND SOMETIMES WE JUST SAT ON THE BACK PORCH, EXCHANGING TENDER TOKENS OF OUR DEEP AND MUTUAL AFFECTION!

ALL OF OUR "SET" KNEW ABOUT FRANK AND MYSELF, AND IT WAS A THRILLING FEELING TO REALIZE WE BELONGED EXCLUSIVELY TO EACH OTHER!

BOY, THAT GAIL RICHARDS GETS MORE GORGEOUS EVERY DAY! I'D SURE LIKE TO ASK HER FOR A DATE!

WHO WOULDN'T?! BUT IT'S "HANDS OFF"! SHE'S FRANK'S PRIVATE PROPERTY!

AND THEN IT BEGAN TO HAPPEN, THE FIRST DISCORDANT SOUNDS IN OUR HARMONIC SYMPHONY...

GAIL, THIS PLAY'S BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT, FRANK, THIS IS ONE OF THE LEADING SHOWS OF THE SEASON... AND I'M ENJOYING IT!

AW, IT'S NOTHING BUT A BORE! C'MON, HONEY!

OH, ALRIGHT... WHATEVER YOU SAY!

A WEEK LATER, I HAD TO TELL CONNIE MARSHALL...

GOSH, CONNIE, I'D LOVE TO GO TO THE BALL SATURDAY NIGHT, BUT FRANK IS GOING TO BE OUT OF TOWN WITH HIS FATHER FOR THE WEEKEND!

WHY DON'T YOU LET SOME OTHER BOY ESCORT YOU THEN? THERE ARE PLENTY OF THEM THAT WOULD JUST JUMP AT THE CHANCE!

NO, CONNIE... I COULDN'T DO THAT! IT'D BE DISLOYAL TO FRANK!

AND A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT...

THERE GOES BARBARA, WITH THAT NEW FELLA IN TOWN! GOLLY, BUT HE'S HANDSOME! AND I HEAR HE HAS A WONDERFUL PERSONALITY!

I HOPE I CAN WANGLE A DATE WITH HIM SOON! WHAT ABOUT YOU, GAIL?

HE LOOKS AWFULLY NICE, BUT FRANK'S MY "STEADY"... AND SO THAT LETS ME OUT!

THEN, AT THE END OF ONE SHOPPING-FILLED AFTERNOON, BEN TAYLOR DROPED ME OFF AT MY HOUSE...

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, BEN! I SURE APPRECIATE IT!

THINK NOTHING OF IT, MA'AM! ANY TIME YOU WANT, THE TAYLOR CHARIOT IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

BEN IS A REAL SWEET GUY! BUT I'VE NEVER GONE OUT WITH HIM! WONDER WHAT HE'D BE LIKE ON A DATE?

THAT NIGHT, I BEGAN TO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANK...

MAYBE I STARTED "GOING STEADY *TOO SOON*! THERE ARE OTHER FELLAS IN TOWN THAT I'D KIND OF LIKE TO REALLY KNOW! AND THERE ARE INTERESTS I'D LIKE TO DEVELOP, WHICH DON'T APPEAL TO FRANK AT ALL!

I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO END MY "STEADY" RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANK, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT TO HIM! HE'D BE HURT...TERRIBLY HURT, IF I SUDDENLY BROUGHT IT TO AN END!

I...I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ON THIS WAY, AND KEEP THINGS AS THEY ARE!

AND SO, I CONTINUED TO DATE ONLY FRANK... BUT IT WASN'T EASY TO DISGUISE MY TRUE FEELINGS!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HONEY... IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG? YOU SEEM KINDA SAD THIS EVENING!

NO, I'M OKAY, FRANK! EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT!

AT HOME, UNABLE TO HELP MYSELF, I SPENT HOURS SULKING ABOUT THE HOUSE...

FINALLY, I COULDN'T CONTAIN IT ANY LONGER! I TOLD MY PARENTS WHAT WAS BOTHERING ME...

...AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM! I WANT TO STOP GOING STEADY WITH FRANK, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK OFF WITHOUT HURTING HIM! AND YET, I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! IT'S MAKING *ME* TOO UNHAPPY!

"THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT IS TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH, DEAR! TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL! YOU'RE BOTH STILL YOUNG, AND AS YOU APPROACH MATURITY YOUR INTERESTS ARE CHANGING! AND YOU'RE FINDING THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANK JUST ISN'T ENOUGH! YOU WANT TO MEET OTHER YOUNG MEN AND GET TO KNOW THEM, TOO!

BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T ***BLAME*** FRANK OR YOURSELF FOR THIS BREAKUP! YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM FEEL ANY WORSE THAN HE PROBABLY WILL!

I WAS GRATEFUL FOR MY PARENTS' ADVICE, AND THE NEXT TIME FRANK TOOK ME OUT...

...AND THAT'S WHY I FEEL WE SHOULD STOP GOING STEADY, FRANK! NOT BECAUSE OF ANY FAULT OF YOURS OR MINE, BUT BECAUSE WE'RE STILL NOT FULLY MATURE!

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE...AND CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR INTERESTS! AT OUR AGE, GOING STEADY AS WE'VE BEEN DOING, IS ONLY PLACING A HARSH RESTRICTION UPON OUR GROWTH INTO ADULTHOOD!

YOU PUT THAT VERY WELL, GAIL, AND I'M SURE GLAD YOU FEEL THIS WAY!

YOU'RE ***GLAD***??!! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND..

WELL, YOU SEE, ***I'VE*** BEEN FEELING THIS WAY FOR SOME TIME NOW... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SUGGEST OUR BREAKING UP, WITHOUT HURTING YOU! BUT NOW ***YOU'VE*** SAID IT, AND YOU'VE SAID IT A LOT BETTER THAN I EVER COULD!

YOU WANTED THIS, ***TOO***!! OH, FRANK, WHAT POOR FOOLS WE'VE BEEN... EACH OF US AFRAID TO COME OUT INTO THE OPEN WITH OUR TRUE FEELINGS!

I DON'T KNOW, I THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING KINDA NICE IN THAT! AFTER ALL, WE ***ONLY*** KEPT QUIET BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT EACH OTHER...AND THAT'S A NICE SENTIMENT TO REMEMBER!

YES, FRANK, YOU'RE RIGHT... IT ***IS*** A NICE SENTIMENT, AND WE'LL HAVE IT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!

AND SO, I SOON BEGAN DATING OTHER FELLAS, AND FRANK AGAIN TOOK OUT OTHER GIRLS... AND WE EACH KNEW THAT IF WE EVER AGAIN DECIDED TO GO STEADY, IT WOULD BE WHEN WE WERE BOTH MATURE ENOUGH TO MAKE SUCH A CONSIDERED DECISION!

THE END

HAPPINESS AHEAD

VERA walked into the kitchen where her mother was preparing Sunday dinner. She took a glass of water, sampled some of the cake batter from the mixing bowl and in general acted not at all like the person she usually was. There was a listlessness about her this evening, a kind of aimlessness, and her mother was aware of it.

"Will you be going out this evening?" she asked, looking up from the work counter where she was shelling some peas.

"I imagine so," said Vera. "Edna has arranged the details. She's bringing a boy for me. He goes to Dexter College. I think Edna said he was studying agronomy, whatever that may be."

"I wouldn't know either," said her mother, "but there is *one* thing I do know." She looked up from her work and gave her daughter a direct look . . . "Something's bothering you, and I have a pretty good idea what it is too."

"If you think I'm still bothered by Bill," she began hotly, then, just as suddenly, she quieted down.

"I guess I am a little," she murmured. "After all, we were going with each other for almost four months."

"Four months," she murmured almost to herself. "Was it really that long?"

She looked up to find her mother looking her way, and to cover her embarrassment she announced that she would look over the paper and see what was playing at the neighborhood movie.

It was cool on the front porch, but pleasantly quiet. Somewhere, from some hidden bush, a robin uttered its cheerful call. The newspaper remained folded on her lap, and her eyes clouded with thought. Four months ago she never would have thought any of this possible. She was so happy then, and the world was so rich with promise. She had graduated from High School only a month previous and almost immediately she had met Bill. It was at one of the square dances on the mall, a night she would never forget. And how casually they had met! She had stopped to lace one of her shoes, and then suddenly he was tying his, and right beside her. They had both laughed, and it seemed so natural for them to go walking off together . . . as if they had known each other for years.

He had come alone that night, and so had she. Later, when the dance was over, he asked to take her home. Ordinarily she would have refused, but with Bill it seemed so right . . . despite their short acquaintance. She learned a lot of things about him on the long walk back along the elm-lined streets. How he longed to become a successful architect, and the great plans he would launch upon his completion of college. She liked listening to him speak, and most important she enjoyed the confidence that characterized his every gesture, giving him an air that was different . . . the mark of a true individual.

Soon they were seeing each other regularly, almost every Saturday night, and on certain occasions they would date during the week. Sometimes Bill would meet her downtown,, where she attended evening classes at the Junior College. They would stop off at one of the drug stores, have a soda, and then the wonderful walk home, hand in hand, sometimes not a word being spoken and yet so much being said. It was on one of these walks that Bill really spoke his heart. How could she ever forget? They had stopped briefly by the park, and beneath the shadow of the old elm, Bill had taken her hand in his.

"Vera," he said, and she was so conscious of the huskiness to his voice . . . "I want you to wait for me. I know it's asking a lot, and it will take four or five years at least before I could even support a wife, but you're the only wife I'd want."

He had stopped, unable to find the words to go on, but within her heart beat a happiness she had never know before.

"Of course I'll wait," she said.

Their lips met in a tender kiss, while overhead the leaves rustled in a gentle breeze. The world had become very distant in that precious moment. There were only the two of them now, alone in the vast, limitless stretches of immeasurable time and space.

Thus the weeks had passed,

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DON'T BREAK MY HEART AGAIN

IN THE COMPANY WHERE I WORKED, GORDON DUNNE WAS THE ONE MAN WHOM EVERY GIRL THOUGHT OF AS THE ANSWER TO HER DREAMS! HE WAS BRIGHT, CULTURED, AND EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD LOOKING; AND THE FIRST TIME HE ASKED ME FOR A DATE, I FELT A THRILL I HADN'T KNOWN SINCE THE CRUSHES OF MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS!

I'VE COME INTO A PAIR OF TICKETS FOR THE OPERA TONIGHT, DIANE! WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR AN EVENING OF PUCCINI? THAT IS, IF YOU'RE FREE!

I'M AS FREE AS A BIRD AND ANY FRIEND OF PUCCINI IS A FRIEND OF MINE! I'D BE HAPPY TO JOIN YOU!

T-423

THAT EVENING, I TOOK PARTICULAR PAINS IN DRESSING! IT WAS ONE TIME THAT I COULDN'T AFFORD NOT TO LOOK MY BEST!

THIS GOWN OUGHT TO IMPRESS ANY FELLA! EVEN SO HANDSOME, STAID, AND CHOICE A HUNK OF MANHOOD AS GORDON DUNNE!

WE WENT TO THE OPERA AND AFTERWARDS, GORDON TOOK ME DANCING...

I'M GLAD YOU CAME WITH ME TONIGHT, DIANE! AND NOW THAT I SEE HOW LOVELY YOU LOOK, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ASK YOU SOONER!

THANK YOU! COMING FROM OUR COMPANY'S MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR, THAT'S QUITE A COMPLIMENT!

THE NEXT DAY...

IT WAS SO THRILLING JUST BEING NEAR HIM, THAT I DON'T THINK I EVEN HEARD "*MADAME BUTTERFLY*"! AND AFTERWARDS, WHEN HE TOOK ME DANCING-- WHEN HE HELD ME IN HIS STRONG, CAPABLE ARMS-- UMMMM, IT WAS WONDERFUL!

IT SOUNDS HEAVENLY!

DO YOU THINK HE'LL ASK YOU OUT AGAIN, DI?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I CERTAINLY HOPE SO!

AFTER THAT, GORDON DID ASK ME OUT AGAIN! IN FACT, HE DATED ME QUITE FREQUENTLY! THROUGH THE SPRING...

C'MON, SLOWPOKE, I'LL RACE YOU TO THE POND!

SLOWPOKE, EH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT YOU EGOTISTIC EQUESTRIENNE!

AND INTO THE SUMMER...

HAVING A NICE TIME, DI?

IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO HAVE A NICE TIME -- WHEN I'M WITH YOU!

FINALLY, ONE EVENING...

DI--I THINK YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL CREATURE I'VE EVER KNOWN!

OH, GORDON--HOW I'VE LONGED FOR THIS MOMENT... FOR THE MO-MENT WHEN I'D HEAR YOU SAY THAT!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, I TOLD THE GIRLS AT THE OFFICE...

AND I'M SURE THAT HE'S AS MUCH IN LOVE WITH ME AS I AM WITH HIM... AND THAT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE ASKS ME TO MARRY HIM!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU LUCKY GAL!

IMAGINE! BEING MRS. GORDON DUNNE, WIFE OF THE HAND-SOMEST GUY THIS SIDE OF SUNSET BLVD!

BUT THEN ONE MORNING, A FEW DAYS LATER, IT HAPPENED!

TOM, I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR GORDON, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND HIM! DO YOU KNOW IF HE CAME IN TO WORK TODAY?

NO, DIANE, I DON'T! WHY DON'T YOU ASK MISTER BAXTER, HIS SUPERVISOR? HE SHOULD KNOW WHERE GORDON IS!

I WENT TO MR. BAXTER, AND...

BUT... DIDN'T GORDON TELL YOU, DIANE?

TELL ME?? TELL ME WHAT???!

WHY, THAT HE *QUIT!* HE LEFT TOWN THIS MORNING! HE'S GOING TO SOUTH AMERICA, WHERE HE HAS A JOB LINED UP!

FOR A FEW SECONDS I STOOD THERE, UNABLE TO COMPREHEND... UNABLE TO BELIEVE THE WORDS I'D JUST HEARD! THEN, WITH TEARS STREAMING DOWN MY CHEEKS, I RAN FROM THE OFFICE!

THAT NIGHT, AT HOME, I CRIED MY ACHING HEART INTO NUMBNESS... AND WHEN IT WAS DONE, I MADE MYSELF A VOW!

I'LL NEVER, NEVER LET THIS HAPPEN TO ME AGAIN! I'LL NEVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN! NO MAN WILL EVER BREAK MY HEART A SECOND TIME!

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, I TURNED DOWN ALL DATES! I WAS TAKING NO CHANCES ON "FALLING" FOR *ANOTHER* MAN!

BUT THE SHOW GOT RAVE NOTICES! ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO COME WITH ME? I THINK YOU'D ENJOY IT!

I'M SORRY, TOM, BUT I REALLY CAN'T! THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I HAVE TO DO AT HOME!

AND THEN ONE DAY, I MET BERT...

DIANE, THIS IS BERT MORLEY, A NEW EMPLOYEE! HE'LL BE WORKING IN THIS DEPARTMENT!

HOW DO YOU DO?

HOW DO I DO WHAT, HONEY?

BERT WAS A FRIVOLOUS FELLOW.., ALWAYS KIDDING, NEVER SERIOUS! DEFINITELY NOT THE TYPE OF MAN THAT I COULD BE ENAMOURED OF!

OH, BERT, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT IF MR. HIGGINS SHOULD SEE THESE!

HE CAN'T HAVE 'EM, THAT'S WHAT! LET HIM GO BUILD HIS OWN AIR FORCE!

AND WHEN THE TIME CAME THAT BERT ASKED ME FOR A DATE, I FELT EASY ABOUT IT... FOR I KNEW HE WAS THE ONE PERSON TO WHOM I'D NEVER LOSE MY HEART!

AND IF YOU DON'T GO OUT WITH ME, I'LL... I'LL SHOOT MYSELF!

ALRIGHT, YOU FOOL! PICK ME UP AT EIGHT! NOW GET BACK TO WORK, BEFORE YOU GET US BOTH FIRED!

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, BERT DATED ME OFTEN, AND I FOUND MYSELF THOROUGHLY ENJOYING THE GAY LIGHT-HEARTED HOURS WE SPENT TOGETHER! EVEN THE WEATHER COULDN'T DAMPEN BERT'S SENSE OF HUMOR!

I HEAR THAT ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE THE *EIFFEL TOWER*...

BUT AS I CONTINUED TO SEE BERT, I CAME TO DISCOVER THAT BENEATH HIS VENEER OF GAIETY LURKED A WARM, SERIOUS, HUMAN BEING!

I'VE ENJOYED OUR TIMES TOGETHER, DIANE... MUCH MORE THAN MY HABITUAL FRIVOLITY LETS ME EXPRESS!

I'VE ALSO GOTTEN A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE FROM OUR DATES, BERT!

AND WHEN HE KISSED ME, I KNEW THAT MY FEELINGS FOR BERT MORLEY HAD GROWN MUCH, MUCH DEEPER THAN I HAD EVER INTENDED TO ALLOW!

THE NEXT FEW DAYS I WAS FILLED WITH FEAR AND ANGER, AS I REMEMBERED ALL TOO PAINFULLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I HAD GIVEN MY HEART TO GORDON!

WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN... LETTING MYSELF AGAIN FALL IN LOVE! NOW I CAN BE HURT AGAIN BY BERT... JUST THE WAY I WAS BEFORE!

I DECIDED THAT THE BEST THING FOR ME TO DO WAS TO SEE LESS AND LESS OF BERT, UNTIL OUR RELATIONSHIP CAME TO A COMPLETE END!

I'M SORRY, BERT... BUT I HAVE A HEADACHE, AND I DON'T THINK I'LL WANT TO GO OUT TONIGHT!

OH... OKAY, DI! I'LL CANCEL THE RESERVATION...

BUT THEN ONE NIGHT, ON A DATE THAT BERT HAD PRACTICALLY FORCED ME INTO, HE TURNED TO ME AND SAID...

DI, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY, BUT IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS! I MEAN... DON'T YOU KNOW... CAN'T YOU SEE... I LOVE YOU, DI! I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!

BERT... DO YOU MEAN THAT? YOU'RE NOT JUST KIDDING ME, ARE YOU...?

KIDDING YOU? I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE SERIOUS IN MY LIFE! I LOVE YOU AND I WANT TO MARRY YOU, DI! THAT IS, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME!

OH, BERT... YES! YES, OF COURSE I WILL!

AND WITH OUR KISS... WITH THAT WARM, RICH PROMISE OF HAPPINESS TO COME, I KNEW THAT I'D LEARNED ONE OF LIFE'S WONDERFUL LESSONS! YOU CAN NEVER DECIDE WHEN OR WITH WHOM YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE! IT IS YOUR HEART, YOUR KNOWING HEART, THAT HAS TO DO IT FOR YOU!

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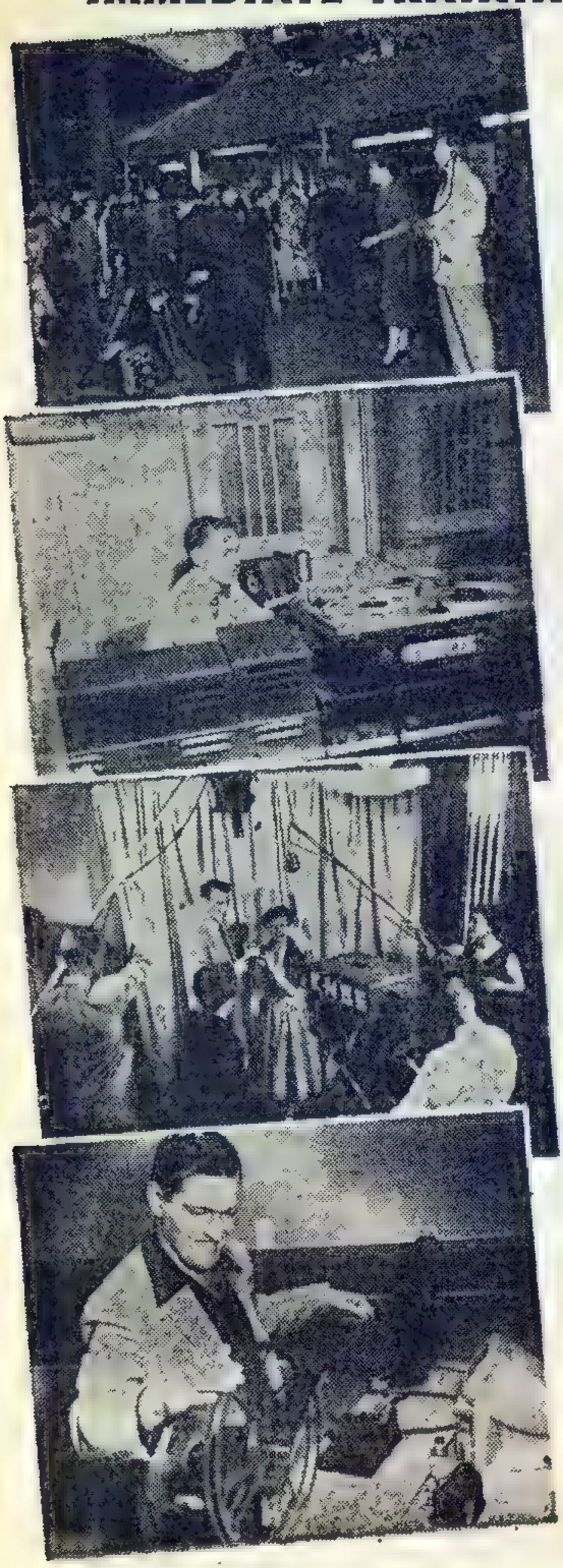

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Hours I work_____

I HAD LOOKS, PERSONALITY, AND BRAINS; AND BY THE TIME I WAS TWENTY-FIVE I'D RECEIVED SEVERAL PROPOSALS OF MARRIAGE--ALL OF WHICH I HAD TURNED DOWN, FOR THE SAME REASON THAT I WAS NOW REFUSING HANK PARKER...

AM I WAITING TOO LONG FOR LOVE?

BUT WHY, JUDY--WHY WON'T YOU MARRY ME?! WE ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, WE SHARE THE SAME INTERESTS! WE COULD HAVE A WONDERFUL LIFE TOGETHER!

NO, HANK--I COULDN'T! YOU'RE SWEET AND FUN TO BE WITH, BUT I'M JUST *NOT IN LOVE* WITH YOU...!

HANK DROVE ME HOME AND THEN LEFT! HE WAS HURT AND DISAPPOINTED, AND I FELT BADLY! BUT THAT WOULDN'T CHANGE MY ANSWER! I SIMPLY WOULDN'T MARRY A MAN WITH WHOM I WASN'T IN LOVE...

BUT BECAUSE I WAS ADAMANT IN MY FEELINGS, THAT DIDN'T MEAN I WASN'T PLENTY WORRIED!

I'VE KNOWN SO MANY FELLAS AND I STILL HAVEN'T FALLEN IN LOVE! WILL IT *EVER* HAPPEN TO ME... WILL I EVER MEET THE *RIGHT* MAN, THE MAN TO WHOM MY HEART CAN BELONG??

A FEW DAYS LATER, MY TWO BEST FRIENDS PAID ME A VISIT!

JUDY, WE HEARD THAT HANK PROPOSED TO YOU--AND YOU TURNED HIM DOWN! IS THAT TRUE?

YES! I HAD TO! HANK IS VERY NICE AND I LIKE HIM A LOT, BUT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM!

LOVE*?!! LOOK, JUDY,** YOU'RE NOW IN YOUR ***MID-TWENTIES, NOT SWEET SIXTEEN! YOU'VE KNOWN A LOT OF FELLAS AND RECEIVED MORE PROPOSALS THAN ANY ONE GAL IS ENTITLED TO, AND YOU HAVEN'T ACCEPTED ANY OF THEM!

ALL US GIRLS FROM THE OLD GANG ARE MARRIED, BUT IF ***YOU*** KEEP ON THIS WAY YOU'LL ***NEVER*** GET MARRIED!

BUT ***HOW*** CAN I MARRY A MAN THAT I DON'T LOVE?!

OH, JUDY, THERE ARE ***OTHER*** THINGS TO CONSIDER BESIDES LOVE! IF A MAN HAS A GOOD INCOME, AND IS AN INTERESTING PERSON, AND IS CONSIDERATE OF YOUR FEELINGS--THESE THINGS ARE ENOUGH FOR A GOOD MARRIAGE!

BESIDES, YOU MAY LEARN TO LOVE HIM ***AFTER*** YOU'RE MARRIED!

YOU BOTH MAY BE RIGHT AND I MAY BE MAKING A BAD MISTAKE, BUT I JUST CAN'T LOOK AT THIS YOUR WAY! TO ME, MARRIAGE IS THE MOST ***SACRED*** OF ALL UNIONS, AND UNLESS I CAN PUT ALL THAT I AM INTO IT--AND THAT INCLUDES MY ***HEART***--THEN I DON'T WANT IT!

AND SO, I CONTINUED TO DATE DIFFERENT FELLAS...

TONIGHT YOU LOOK EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN USUAL, JUDY!

THANK YOU, FRED...

AND THOUGH I ENJOYED THEIR COMPANIONSHIP...

BOY, I'VE NEVER HEARD THIS ARIA SUNG SO WELL! THAT COLORATURA SOPRANO'S VOICE IS MAGNIFICENT!

WELL, AT LAST I'VE MET A MAN WHO SHARES MY PENCHANT FOR OPERA!

MY FEELINGS FOR THEM NEVER REACHED THE DEPTH THAT I WAS LONGING FOR!

JUDY, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH--AND I WANT TO TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH YOU! WILL YOU MARRY ME...

OH, PAUL--YOU'RE DEAR AND SWEET AND I'M HONORED THAT YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR WIFE--BUT I *CAN'T* ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL! I WISH IT WERE OTHERWISE, BUT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH YOU...

AS TIME PASSED, MY FRIENDS GREW MORE AND MORE CONCERNED FOR ME!

LOOK, TOM, THERE'S JUDY, ACROSS THE STREET! THE POOR THING -- I ONLY HOPE SHE LEARNS TO COMPROMISE HER IDEAL OF *"TRUE LOVE"*, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

YEAH, SHE'S NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER! PRETTY SOON THOSE PROPOSALS WILL ***STOP*** COMING, AND UNLESS SHE CHANGES, SHE'S LIABLE TO END UP AN OLD MAID!

FINALLY, EVEN I WAS BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT HOW WISE MY ATTITUDE WAS...

MAYBE I'M WRONG! MAYBE I'M EXPECTING TOO MUCH OUT OF LIFE! PERHAPS IF I CAN RESPECT AND ADMIRE A MAN -- AND FEEL SOME DEGREE OF AFFECTION FOR HIM -- PERHAPS THAT'S ***ENOUGH!***

AND YET, I FEEL THAT'S ***NOT*** ENOUGH! THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING MORE! THERE HAS TO BE ***LOVE!***

OH, I'M SO CONFUSED--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, ANY MORE--

THEN ONE NIGHT, I ATTENDED A PARTY GIVEN BY SOME FRIENDS! I WAS THERE AWHILE WHEN...

GOLLY, IT'S STUFFY IN HERE! I THINK I CAN USE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR!

AND OUT ON THE VERANDA, I SAW HIM! HE WAS STANDING ALONE, AND AT THE SOUND OF MY FOOTSTEPS HE TURNED IN MY DIRECTION, AND I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING AT ONE OF THE HANDSOMEST MEN I'D EVER SEEN!

WELL, I SEE I'M NOT THE ***ONLY*** ONE WHO THOUGHT THAT PLACE WAS BEGINNING TO RESEMBLE A GAS CHAMBER!

NO, I ***ALSO*** FELT I WAS COMING CLOSE TO ASPHYXIATION!

HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF AND WE CHATTED FOR QUITE AWHILE! THEN BEFORE WE BOTH WENT BACK INSIDE, HE SAID TO ME--

I'VE ENJOYED OUR LITTLE TALK, JUDY, AND I'M WONDERING -- WOULD YOU MIND IF I CALLED YOU FOR A DATE SOMETIME?

WHY NO, I THINK I'D LIKE THAT--VERY MUCH!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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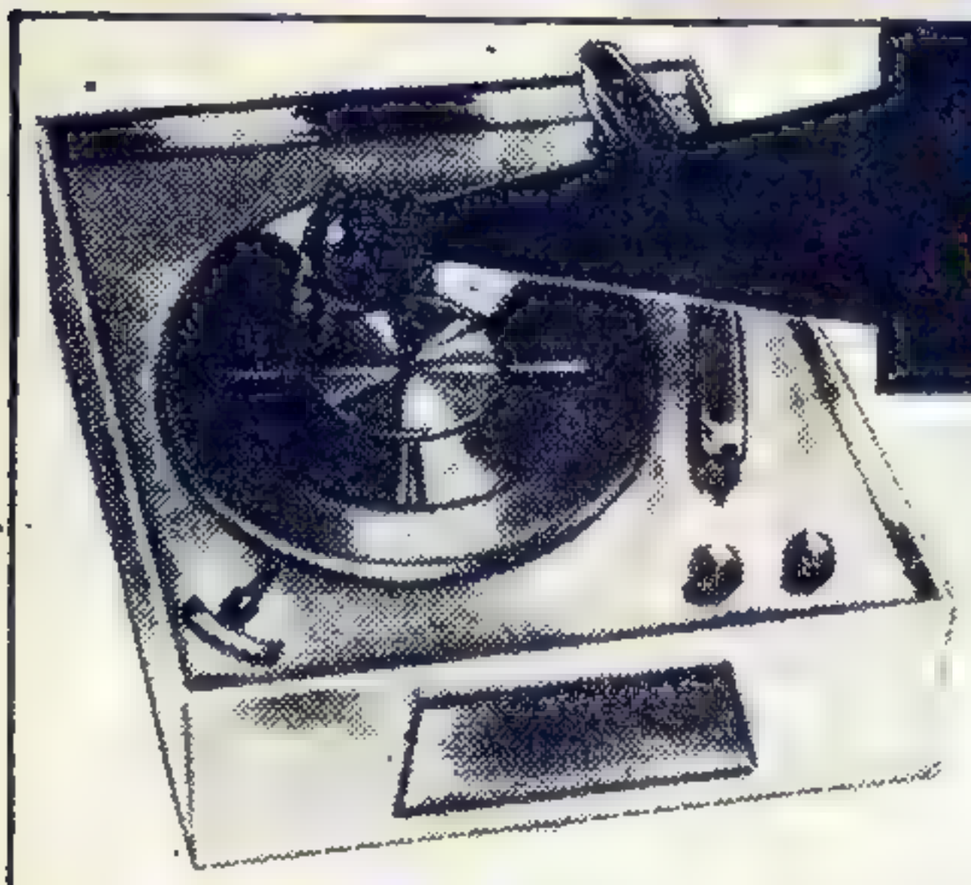

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HIS NAME WAS DAN PIERCE... AND EVEN ON OUR FIRST DATE I HAD THE FEELING THAT THIS TIME IT WAS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT--THIS TIME MY HEART'S DESIRE WAS GOING TO BE REALIZED!

HAVING A GOOD TIME, JUDY?

YES, I AM! YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER, DAN!

WE DATED FREQUENTLY AND I FOUND MYSELF GROWING VERY FOND OF HIM...

TELL ME SOME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF, DAN!

THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH MORE TO TELL! EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I WANTED TO BE A LAWYER, AND NOW THAT I AM ONE, I FIND IT EVERY BIT AS SATISFYING AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!

AND WHEN HE FINALLY KISSED ME, I KNEW THAT THIS WAS *IT!* I KNEW THAT AT LAST I HAD FALLEN DEEPLY, HOPELESSLY, WONDERFULLY IN ***LOVE!***

THEN CAME THE NIGHT THAT I WAITING AND PRAYING FOR!

JUDY, I'VE KNOWN A LOT OF GIRLS, BUT I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANY OF THEM! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'M HEAD-OVER-HEELS IN LOVE! AND IT'S WITH ***YOU*** HONEY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ***RIGHT*** FOR ME!

WILL YOU ***MARRY*** ME, JUDY--?

YES, MY DARLING--I WILL! I'LL BE PROUD AND HAPPY TO BE YOUR WIFE!!

AND SO WE WERE MARRIED! AND AS DAN CARRIED ME ACROSS THE THRESHOLD OF OUR HOME, I KNEW THAT I HAD BEEN ***RIGHT*** TO LISTEN TO MY HEART! I HAD BEEN ***RIGHT*** TO WAIT UNTIL I WAS IN LOVE! FOR OF ALL THE FINE THINGS WE'D FIND IN OUR MARRIAGE, NONE WOULD BE AS WONDERFUL AS THE ***DEEP AND LASTING LOVE WE FELT FOR EACH OTHER!***

The End

TOMORROW WE MARRY

IT WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE OUR WEDDING! I WAS ALONE IN MY ROOM, PREPARING FOR BED, WHEN IT BEGAN TO HAPPEN... WHEN THE FIRST AWFUL *DOUBTS* BEGAN TO WORK THEIR WAY INTO MY MIND!

ALL THESE MONTHS, I'VE BEEN SO EXCITED... I COULD HARDLY WAIT UNTIL THE TIME PETE AND I WOULD BE MARRIED! AND NOW--NOW THAT IT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE IT'S NOT THE RIGHT THING! MAYBE WE'RE BOTH MAKING A MISTAKE!

PAUL REINMAN T-447

OH, WHAT A RIDICULOUS TIME TO START GETTING THE JITTERS! BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! TOMORROW I'M GOING TO BE JOINED TO A MAN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, AND I'M NOT CERTAIN -- I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT THE LOVE WE HAVE IS STRONG ENOUGH!

I *THOUGHT* IT WAS! UNTIL NOW, I WAS SO SURE OF THE TRUTH AND DEPTH OF OUR LOVE! WHY, I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE THRILL OF OUR FIRST MEETING!

AND MY THOUGHTS FLASHED BACK--BACK TO THE SENIOR PROM AT COLLEGE...

LYDIA, THIS IS PETE CONNOR AND I THINK YOU SHOULD REWARD THAT ADMIRING GLEAM IN HIS EYE BY DEIGNING TO DANCE WITH HIM!

I'D BE VERY HAPPY TO!

I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND CAMPUS FOR SOME TIME, LYDIA, AND I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG FOR ME TO WANGLE AN INTRODUCTION!

YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER, KIND SIR, AND I AM ALSO SORRY WE DIDN'T MEET SOONER! HOW-EVER, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

AFTER THAT EVENING, PETE AND I OCCASIONALLY DATED! WE ENJOYED DOING THINGS TOGETHER...

A PERFECT ***STRIKE!*** PETE, BOY, THE GODS HAVE FAVORED YOU THIS TIME! THE LADY'S NOT ONLY GORGEOUS BUT SHE CAN BOWL LIKE A PRO!

THANKS! YOU'RE NO SLOUCH YOURSELF, PARD'NER!

AND SOMETIMES WE ENJOYED JUST ***BEING*** TOGETHER...

IT'S WONDERFUL HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO TALK TO YOU, LYDIA! YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WITH WHOM I CAN JUST BE MYSELF!

I'M GLAD OF THAT, PETE... BECAUSE I THINK I KINDA HAVE THE SAME FEELING!

AND SOON CAME THAT NIGHT--THAT PRECIOUS NIGHT WHEN WE SHARED OUR FIRST KISS...

AFTER THAT, WE WERE TOGETHER CONSTANTLY!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT, BEAUTIFUL...?

I'M THINKING ABOUT HOW VERY *NICE* IT IS TO BE IN YOUR ARMS!

AND ONE WONDERFUL NIGHT, PETE TOOK MY WORLD AND TRANSFORMED IT INTO A HEAVEN...

LYDIA, DARLING, WILL YOU-- WILL YOU *MARRY* ME?

OH, PETE--I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU!

THE NEXT DAY I COULD SCARCELY GET THE WORDS OUT ABOVE THE BEATING OF MY HAPPY HEART...

AND HE FINALLY PROPOSED TO ME! MOM--DAD, ISN'T IT TERRIFIC?! I'M ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED TO THE ONE MAN IN THIS WORLD WHO'S FOR ME!

OH, DARLING--I'M SO HAPPY!

WE'LL START PLANNING FOR THE WEDDING, IMMEDIATELY! I WANT TO DO THIS THING UP RIGHT FOR YOU, HONEY!

AND SO IT BEGAN, THE PARTIES, SHOWERS AND PLANNING! THE DAYS WERE HECTIC AND BUSY, BUT I LOVED EVERY MOMENT OF THEM!

WE'LL GO OVER THE GUEST LIST AS SOON AS YOU'RE THRU WITH THE FITTING, DEAR!

RIGHT, MOM! I'LL BE ONLY A FEW MORE MINUTES!

BUT THEN ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING, DOUBTS AND FEARS SUDDENLY WELLED WITHIN ME!

SUPPOSE PETE AND I REALLY *AREN'T* IN LOVE... SUPPOSE IT'S JUST SOME KIND OF TEMPORARY INFATUATION! HOW CAN I KNOW?!?! HOW CAN I TELL?!?!

AFTER A FEW FITFUL HOURS OF SLEEP, MORNING ARRIVED... AND IT WAS WITH A STILL QUEASY UNCERTAINTY THAT I SOON FOUND MYSELF WALKING DOWN THE CHURCH AISLE!

IS THIS THE RIGHT THING... OR AM I MAKING A MISTAKE?? OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?!?!

BUT WHEN I REACHED THE END OF THE AISLE -- WHEN I SAW PETE STANDING THERE, WAITING FOR ME, MY EYES MET HIS GAZE AND I STARTED TO BECOME REASSURED...

PETE -- PETE -- YOU *ARE* THE MAN -- THE WONDERFUL MAN THAT I LOVE...

AND AS WE STOOD BEFORE THE ALTAR... AND I FELT THE WARM STRENGTH OF HIS HANDS ABOUT MINE, EVERY DOUBT AND FEAR THAT I HAD -- *VANISHED!* I KNEW THEN THAT THE LOVE WE SHARED WAS AS DEEP AND TRUE AS ANY LOVE COULD BE, AND THAT IT WOULD GIVE US JOY FOR THE REST OF OUR DAYS!

The End

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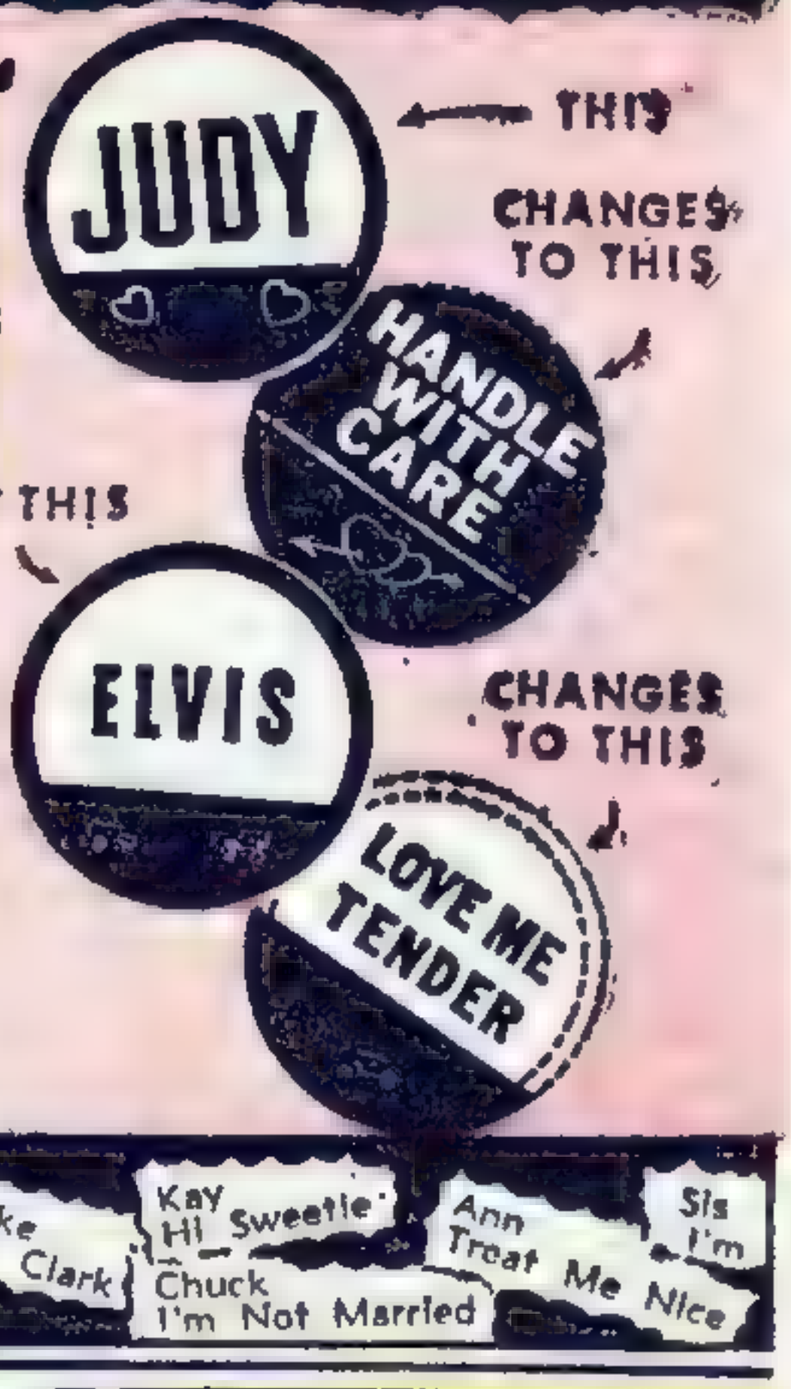

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CONTINUED

and the enchantment of being in love never dimmed. Four or five years of waiting was the only unhappy feature, but it would only make her twenty-two, and that couldn't be too bad. Young enough, she reasoned to have her family, and mature enough to assume the responsibilities of a home and a husband.

But it was toward the end of April, when the minor, yet irritating details began to crop up. It wasn't exactly fault finding, but certain things had become fairly obvious in Bill's nature . . . things that did annoy. For example, he had a way of changing things at the last moment. Their plans might have called for a movie, but suddenly Bill would call. A friend might have dropped by, and could they make it a double date? Or it might be that he just didn't feel like a movie, and would suggest a ride instead. She'd go along with these changes, but they did bother. Perhaps it was the things that were left unsaid that caused the misunderstanding. Then came the evening when she politely refused to go along with Bill's sudden notion to go to the rink. The plans had called for dancing at the Civic Auditorium. He had called her stubborn, and she called him domineering in return. The tears came quickly along with further recriminations. Then he walked off, slamming the front gate behind him. It was the end, just like that.

The newspaper fell from her lap, and as she reached out for it she saw her mother standing in the doorway.

"I didn't hear you all the while you were out here," she said. "Mind if I join you, while the potatoes come to a boil?"

She sat down beside her daughter before she had a chance to reply. "Maybe it's about time we had a talk," she said gently.

"What about?" asked Vera, but her evasiveness wasn't convincing.

"About your father and myself," her mother said.

Vera looked up with quick surprise. "But I don't see how . . ."

"I know," her mother interrupted, "but it might make some kind of sense when I'm through."

She paused for a moment, as

if remembering something that had happened a long time ago, and her eyes sparkled with definite amusement.

"Your father wasn't the first boy I ever dated," she began. "As a matter of fact, he was the last person I thought I could ever love. There were at least three other young men who seemed to really matter, and most important was Frank Miller, the first steady I ever had. When we had a falling out, I thought my world was coming to an end. I really did. I never wanted to see another boy again, and it was so right for me to think that way, and so foolish too."

"Foolish?" echoed Vera.

"Yes," her mother smiled. "Because if I had persisted in thinking that way, I never would have met your father."

She reached out and took Vera's hand.

"I know it's difficult to believe now, Vera, but you will get over Bill . . . just the way I got over Frank Miller. Your disagreeing with him on certain matters was the most natural thing in the world. You're still growing up and you have every right to change and be selective. There will be other young men, several of them perhaps, before the *real* one comes along. And strangest of all, it may turn out to be the one you least suspect."

They were both silent for awhile, and then her mother got to her feet.

"I can hear the water boiling," she said, and with a quick step walked off.

For several minutes Vera continued sitting where she was, then slowly she stood up and with a thoughtful expression mounted the stairs to her room. Carefully she selected the most flattering dress from her closet. Then she put it down, walked over to the bookcase and took out the dictionary. She found the word she wanted under 'A', and for the first time that day she smiled.

"So that's it," she said aloud. "An Agronomist is a soil expert. How different!"

She was humming while she slipped into her dress, and thinking. Edna said the Dexter boy would call for her at eight. By her clock it was only seven, but she could hardly wait!

THE END J-842

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CAN'T YOU SEE I LOVE YOU!

I HAD BEEN EMPLOYED AS LESLIE HAMILTON'S "SCRIPT" GIRL FOR A YEAR AND A HALF! LESLIE HAMILTON, IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN ON ANOTHER PLANET FOR THE PAST DECADE, IS TELEVISION'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCER! HE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE ABOUT THE HANDSOMEST GUY IN THE BUSINESS... AND I WAS HIS GIRL FRIDAY!

EVE, I THINK THIS IS OUR BEST SHOW OF THE SEASON!

NOT OURS, MR. HAMILTON... YOURS! YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE IMAGINATION AND KNOW-HOW CREATE THESE TV SPECTACULARS!

AFTER EACH SHOW, THERE WAS THE SAME RITUAL...

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. HAMILTON! YOU'VE DONE IT, AGAIN!

LESLIE, DAH-LING... THIS WAS THE MOST FABULOUS SHOW IN AGES!

BOSS, I GUARANTEE YA... WHEN THE RATINGS COME IN ON THIS ONE THE SPONSORS'LL FLIP WITH JOY!

AND WHILE MR. HAMILTON WOULD GO OFF TO THE USUAL CONGRATULATORY PARTY...

WE'RE ALL GOING OVER TO MABEL'S PLACE, DAH-LING! SIMPLY EVERY-ONE WILL BE THERE TO TELL YOU HOW WONDERFUL THE SHOW WAS!

IT WAS THE GREATEST... THE GREATEST EVER!

I WOULD LEAVE THE STUDIO A LITTLE SAD AND LONELY...

G'NIGHT, EVE!

GOOD NIGHT, SAM...

BECAUSE YOU SEE, I WAS DEEPLY, HOPELESSLY, AND SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH LESLIE HAMILTON!

EACH EVENING AFTER DINNER, MY PARENTS WOULD GIVE ME THE SAME ADVICE...

EVE, DEAR... WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM? TELL MISTER HAMILTON HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM!

YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE, EVE! DON'T EAT YOUR HEART OUT BY NOT TELLING HIM! IF MR. HAMILTON KNEW, MAYBE YOU TWO COULD HAVE SOME KIND OF FRIEND-SHIP! MAYBE HE'D EVEN FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!

OH, DAD, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! LESLIE HAMILTON'S ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES IN THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD! HIS LIFE IS FILLED WITH GLAMOUR AND EXCITEMENT... AND HIS FRIENDS ARE ALL THE MOST SOPHISTI-CATED PEOPLE!

WHY, I'D BE A FOOL TO THINK THAT I COULD EVER BE ANY MORE TO HIM THAN JUST ANOTHER EMPLOYEE!

THEN QUIT HIM, DEAR! GET UP AND LEAVE... AND STOP TORTURING YOURSELF WITH THIS IMPOSSIBLE LOVE!

I CAN'T QUIT! I WANT TO BE NEAR HIM! I WANT TO BE WHERE I CAN SEE HIM, AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE! HE'S THE MAN I LOVE AND I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!

AND EVERY NIGHT, I WOULD CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP...

WHY... (SOB) WHY DID I HAVE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE SO BEYOND MY REACH? SOMEONE WHO'S LIKE A DISTANT STAR THAT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TOUCH...

MORE TIME PASSED, AND AS I CONTINUED TO REMAIN IN THE EMPLOY OF MISTER HAMILTON...

EVE, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LAST PART OF THIS ACT?

WHY-- I THINK IT'S A BIT TOO LONG, SIR!

GOOD! THOSE ARE MY SENTI-MENTS EXACTLY! PLEASE MAKE A NOTE TO CUT IT!

OCCASIONALLY, HE WOULD ASK ME TO WORK AFTER HOURS, AND THOUGH HE WAS POLITE AND THOUGHTFUL, OUR RE-LATIONSHIP NEVER BECAME MORE THAN STRICTLY BUSINESS!

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO STAY AND HELP ME GO OVER THESE SURVEY REPORTS!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MR. HAMILTON... ANY TIME I CAN HELP OUT, I'M HAPPY TO!

AND THEN I BEGAN TO FIND MYSELF DAY-DREAMING ABOUT MR. HAMILTON! THEY WERE PAINFUL IMAGES OF THE FABULOUS LIFE HE LED AND THE GLAMOR-OUS WOMEN HE KNEW! WOMEN SUCH AS HARRIET ATHERTON, WHO WAS A TOP NAME IN THE SOCIAL REGISTER...

YOU DANCE WELL ENOUGH TO BE IN ONE OF YOUR OWN SHOWS, DARLING!

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, BEAUTIFUL LADY! YOU INSPIRE ME!

AND CONSTANCE WESTCOTT, THE WORLD'S FOREMOST MILLIONAIRESS...

I WAS THINKING OF TRYING MY HAND AT A BROADWAY SHOW NEXT YEAR!

WONDERFUL, LESLIE! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY, AND I'LL BACK YOU TO THE HILT!

AND OF COURSE, BABETTE HARPER-- HOLLYWOOD'S GIFT TO THE MALE POPULATION!

I'LL BE COMING TO NEW YORK IN THE FALL, DARLING! AND WHILE I'M THERE, YOU SIMPLY MUST SHOW LITTLE 'OL ME AROUND!

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE COMING, AND I'LL ARRANGE IT SO THAT MY TIME WILL BE YOUR TIME!

THESE WERE ALL BEAUTIFUL, WEALTHY, AND SOPHISTICATED WOMEN... AND I COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY COMPETED WITH THEM FOR THE HEART OF LESLIE HAMILTON!

WHAT MAN WOULD WANT A MERE HAMBURGER, WHEN HE COULD HAVE FILET MIGNON...

THEN ONE DAY IT HAPPENED--THE MISTAKE!

MISS BROWN, LET ME HAVE THE ESTIMATES YOU TYPED UP! I WANT TO CONVINCE THESE GENTLEMEN THAT OUR SHOW WON'T BE TOO EXPENSIVE TO SPONSOR!

IT ONLY TOOK A MOMENT FOR MISTER HAMILTON TO LOOK AT THE REPORTS, WHEN...

MISS BROWN... THESE ESTIMATES ARE ALL *WRONG!* YOU TYPED THE WHOLE THING INCORRECTLY!

I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, SIR... I-I GUESS LATELY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONCENTRATE AS I SHOULD!

WELL, GENTLEMEN, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR CONFERENCE, UNTIL WE GET THE CORRECT ESTIMATES TYPED UP! I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND I HOPE YOU'LL BEAR WITH ME UNTIL THEN!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, LESLIE! THESE MISTAKES OCCASIONALLY HAPPEN!

THAT EVENING AFTER WORK, MISTER HAMILTON ASKED IF HE COULD WALK WITH ME A WHILE! KNOWING THE BONER I HAD PULLED, I WAS REALLY WORRIED! I PRAYED THAT HE WOULDN'T TELL ME I WAS FIRED!

EVE, THERE'S SOMETHING VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY... AND YET I MUST TELL IT TO YOU!

IF IT'S ABOUT THE MISTAKE I MADE, MR. HAMILTON... I'M AWFULLY SORRY, AND I PROMISE I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE!

NO, EVE... IT'S NOT THAT! IN GENERAL I THINK YOUR WORK IS JUST FINE! NO, IT'S SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT!

EVE, I KNOW IT'S HOPELESS, BUT I--I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU! I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE NERVE TO TELL THIS TO YOU, EXCEPT THAT WHAT I FEEL IS SO DEEP... SO STRONG, THAT I CAN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF!

BUT HOW... I MEAN, WHY ME? YOU LEAD SUCH A WONDERFUL LIFE! YOU MEET SO MANY GLAMOROUS WOMEN! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY CARE FOR ME?

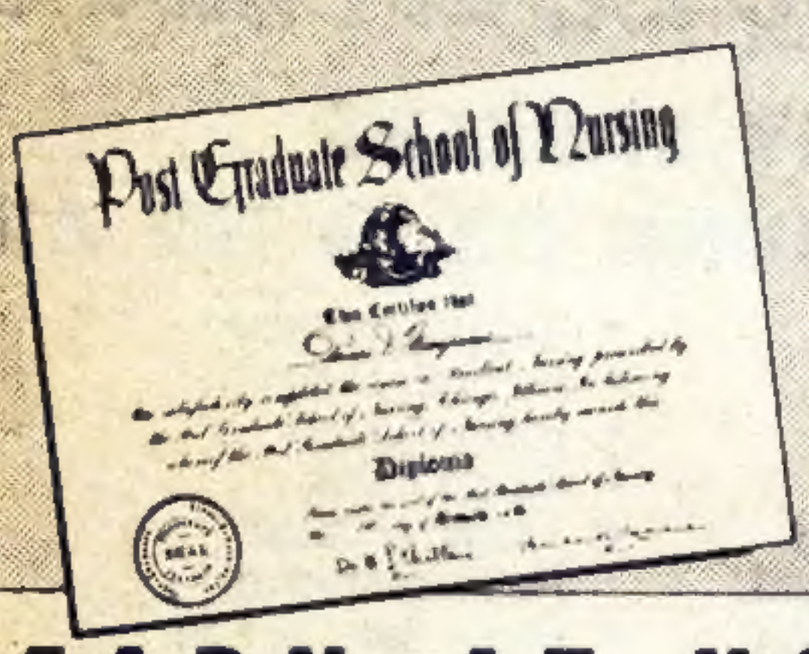
MY LIFE ISN'T ALL THAT WONDERFUL, EVE! SURE, IT'S EXCITING, BUT IT'S ALSO A PHONEY, TINSEL LIFE! IN THE SET I TRAVEL IN, IT'S EASY TO MEET VAIN, SUPERFICIAL PEOPLE... BUT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET A WARM SINCERE HUMAN... TO MEET A PERSON LIKE YOU!

YOU HAVE MORE QUALITY AND GENUINE FINENESS THAN ANY WOMAN I KNOW... AND I LOVE YOU! AND SO ON THE ONE-IN-A MILLION CHANCE THAT YOU COULD POSSIBLY CARE FOR A GUY WHO A COUPLE OF FLOP SHOWS COULD RUIN... FOR A GUY WHO ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU... I'M ASKING YOU TO MARRY ME!

AND WITH THAT FIRST KISS, THE WORLD OPENED UP FOR LESLIE AND MYSELF... AND WE KNEW THAT ITS OUTPOURINGS WOULD SOON COVER US, AND GIVE US JOY FOR THE REST OF OUR DAYS!

The End

ENJOY STEADY PAY EVERY DAY AS A NURSE



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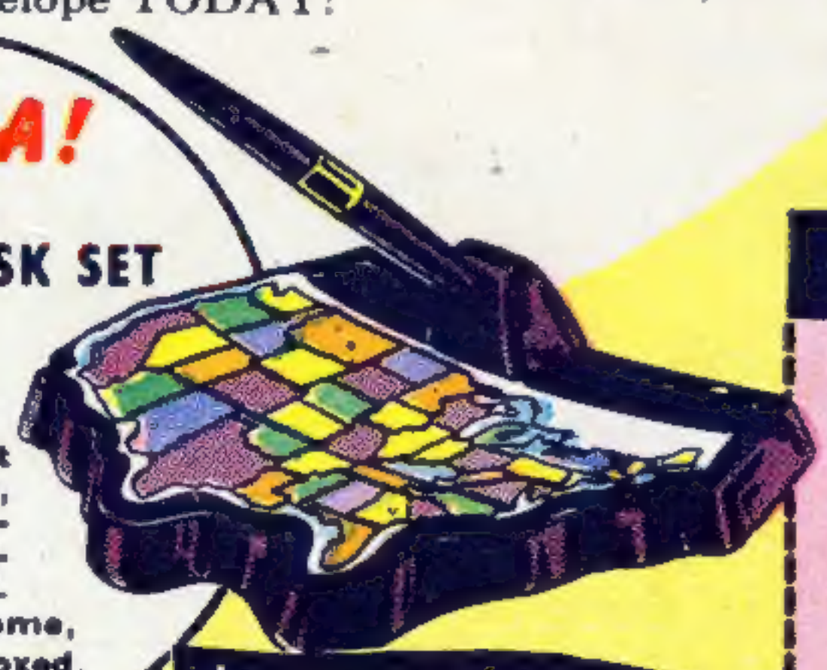

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